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Committee on Relations with the Host Country

Letter dated 1 May 2008 from the Minister Counsellor for Host Country Affairs of the United States Mission to the United Nations addressed to the Chairman of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country

I have the honour to transmit a copy of a note verbale dated 1 May 2008 (see annex) that has been sent by the United States Mission to the United Nations to the Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations as a response to its note verbale of 25 February 2008. I request that you circulate the attached diplomatic note as a document of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country.

(*Signed*) Russell F. **Graham**
Minister Counsellor for Host Country Affairs

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Annex to the letter dated 1 May 2008 from the Minister Counsellor for Host Country Affairs of the United States Mission to the United Nations addressed to the Chairman of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country

The United States Mission to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations and wishes to respond to the latter's note verbale No. 98 of 25 February 2008 as well as to other communications between the two Missions regarding the issuance of visas to individuals travelling to the United States on official United Nations business.

While the United States Mission is able to monitor the progress of visa requests submitted in New York, it has relied on the Permanent Mission of Cuba to provide information regarding delays experienced with regard to applications submitted abroad. In the case of Jose Rufino Menendez Hernandez, to whom note No. 98 refers, and in many other cases as well, it would have been helpful if the Permanent Mission had contacted the United States Mission to the United Nations earlier in the process in order to provide more opportunity for the United States Mission's intervention on these matters.

In an attempt to address the concerns of the Permanent Mission, the United States Mission requests that it be informed as soon as possible when a request for a visa for official United Nations business has been filed which may be delayed in processing so that the United States Mission can make every effort to assist.

The United States Mission to the United Nations avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations the assurances of its highest consideration.